

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 228056

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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APPROVED BY S/S-O: STEINER
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LIMDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SOUTH AFRICA: WHY NATAL IS QUIET

ALTHOUGH NATAL HAS REMAINED QUIET DURING THE VIOLENCE IN
OTHER PARTS OF SOUTH AFRICA, AMCONSUL DURBAN QUESTIONS
WHETHER THIS WILL LAST. IN ATTEMPTING TO EXPLAIN THE RELA-
TIVE TRANQUILITY OF THE REGION, DURBAN SAYS:

--THE POPULATION IS RELATIVELY HOMOGENEOUS, AND THE
ZULUS MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES WITH THEIR TRADITIONAL CUL-
TURE.

--THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR BLACKS IS LESS DEGRADING
THAN IN SOWETO AND CAPETOWN.

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PAGE 02 STATE 228056

--THE SAG IS KNOWN TO RESPOND SEVERELY TO VIOLENCE IN

NATAL, PERHAPS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT REMEMBERS THE
ROLE OF THE ZULUS IN THE WARS OF THE LAST CENTURY.

--THE ZULUS AS A NATION RESPOND TO A SINGLE LEADER;
THAT POSITION IS CURRENTLY HELD BY CHIEF BUTHELEZI,
WHO SO FAR HAS ESCHEWED VIOLENCE.

CONSULATE COMMENT: UNLESS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE
IN ALLEVIATING THE SITUATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS, IT IS
DOUBTFUL WHETHER THE COMBINATION OF BUTHELEZI'S RELATIVELY
BENIGN LEADERSHIP AND THE OTHER FACTORS CITED CAN PERMA-
NENTLY STEM THE TIDE OF BLACK RESENTMENT IN NATAL AND
KWAZULU. (CONFIDENTIAL) DURBAN 448, 9/13.)

2. CAR: A REVOLUTION IN SEARCH OF AN IDEOLOGY

EMBASSY BANGUI PREDICTS THAT, DESPITE A PARTY REORGANIZATION
AND THE CREATION OF A "REVOLUTIONARY" GOVERNMENT, THE LONG
RANGE FUTURE OF PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S REGIME REMAINS UNCER-
TAIN. THE EMBASSY REPORTS THAT:

--DISSATISFACTION IS ON THE RISE AMONG STUDENTS AND
CIVIL SERVANTS.

--DECISIONS ARE CAPRICIOUS AND CHANGES OF DIRECTION
FREQUENT.

--THE UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY OF THE REVOLUTION IS OB-
SCURE; THE CAR REMAINS A REVOLUTIONARY COUNTRY IN
NAME ONLY, LEADING TO CYNICISM ABOUT BOKASSA AND HIS
REGIME.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE IT CANNOT BE SAID THAT A CHANGE IS
IMMINENT, IT IS INCREASINGLY POSSIBLE. US POLICY IN THIS
UNCERTAIN ATMOSPHERE SHOULD SEEK TO CREATE A VIABLE BASE
FOR OUR RELATIONS OVER THE LONG TERM THROUGH CREATIVE AID
PROGRAMS. (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGUI 1713 (LIMDIS), 9/13.)

3. SWEDEN: US CRITICIZED ANEW OVER ALLENDE COUP

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PAGE 03 STATE 228056

SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON, IN A SHORT SPEECH SEP-
TEMBER 11 MARKING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHILEAN
COUP, CRITICIZED THE ALLEGED KEY ROLE OF THE NIXON ADMIN-
ISTRATION AND THE CIA IN DESTABILIZING THE ALLENDE REGIME.

EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SOME PRESS REPORTS CHARACTERIZE
ANDERSSON'S STATEMENT AS AN ESCALATION OF GOS CRITICISM OF
THE US ROLE IN CHILE, WE DOUBT THIS IS SO. HIS REMARKS

WERE UNDOUBTEDLY STIMULATED BY WIDESPREAD DISDAIN FOR THE PINOCHET REGIME, PARTICULARLY IN THE LEFT-WING OF HIS OWN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) STOCKHOLM 4999, 9/13.)

4. IRAQ: CHANGES IN THE WORKS?

OUR INTERESTS SECTION IN BAGHDAD HAS BEEN TOLD BY A BRITISH COLLEAGUE THAT PRESIDENT BAKR, WHO SUFFERS FROM CHRONIC ILL HEALTH, MAY HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY PARALYZED BY A RECENT STROKE. THE INTERESTS SECTION BELIEVES THIS MAY SPEED UP THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO SADDAM HUSSEIN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL. (CONFIDENTIAL) BAGHDAD 1329, 9/14.)

5. TUNISIA REPUDIATES CALL FOR OCTOBER ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT

EMBASSY TUNIS REPORTS THAT, ON HIS RETURN FROM THE ARAB LEAGUE MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE DECISION TO HOLD ANOTHER ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER IS NEITHER "POSITIVE NOR REALISTIC." CHATTY ADDED:

--TUNISIA AGREED TO THE DECISION IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN UNANIMITY, BUT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON REQUIRES URGENT ATTENTION BEFORE SARKIS TAKES OFFICE.

--THE BASIS FOR PEACE IN LEBANON REMAINS THE JULY 29 DAMASCUS ACCORD BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE PLO, BUT THE FAILURE OF THE PARTIES TO AGREE ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRIPARTITE COMMISSION HAS PREVENTED ITS IMPLEMENTATION. (CONFIDENTIAL) TUNIS 6388, 9/14.)

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PAGE 04 STATE 228056

6. PERU: THE PLANE TRUTH

AMBASSADOR DEAN REPORTS THAT PERU'S "REQUEST FOR BIDS" FOR WAR PLANES MAY BE ONLY A SMOKE SCREEN, AS AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS TO PURCHASE SU-22'S IS LIKELY. THE AMBASSADOR NEVERTHELESS BELIEVES THAT WHEN AIR MINISTER POGGI VISITS WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 15 WE SHOULD OFFER TO SELL SOME PLANES TO PERU, AND EXPLAIN CLEARLY WHY OTHER, MORE SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT ARE UNAVAILABLE. WHILE OUR OFFER MAY BE STRICTLY FOR THE RECORD, IT WOULD:

--PROVIDE ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF US INTEREST IN HELPING PERU MEET ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS;

--MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR POGGI TO CLAIM THAT HIS

VISIT WAS GREETED WITH INDIFFERENCE; AND

--HELP US IN ANY FUTURE DIALOG WITH THE PERUVIANS ON MEASURES TO REDUCE TENSIONS WITH CHILE. (CONFIDENTIAL) LIMA 8314, 9/14.)

7. PANAMA: VIOLENCE AND THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS

IN THE VIEW OF AMBASSADOR JORDEN, RECENT STUDENT VIOLENCE IN PANAMA IS SYMPTOMATIC OF DEEP-SEATED FRUSTRATIONS. HE IS CONCERNED THAT THESE FRUSTRATIONS MAY TAKE AN ANTI-AMERICAN TURN AS PANAMANIAN INCREASINGLY VOICE THEIR BITTERNESS AT THE LONG DELAY IN THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH THEY BLAME ON THE US. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES WE COULD MINIMIZE THIS POSSIBILITY BY INFORMING THE GOP THAT WE ARE READY TO RESUME TALKS AT AN EARLY DATE. IN HIS VIEW, QUIET TALKS WOULD:

--PROVIDE THE BEST "MANAGEMENT TOOL" FOR COPING WITH LOCAL DEMONSTRATIONS; AND

--SERVE TO FOCUS THE PANAMANIAN'S BITTERNESS WHERE IT BELONGS: ON THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT, WHOSE POLICIES HAVE HELPED CREATE THE ECONOMIC MORASS WHICH IS THE SOURCE OF SUCH PROFOUND DISCONTENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) PANAMA 6399 (LIMDIS), 9/14.)
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PAGE 05 STATE 228056

8. TRINIDAD: WILLIAMS WINS ELECTION

THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT (PNM) UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS RECEIVED A SOLID NEW MANDATE AT THE POLLS ON SEPTEMBER 13, WINNING 24 OF 36 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS. THE TRADITIONAL OPPOSITION PARTY, THE EAST INDIAN-BASED DEMOCRATIC LABOR PARTY, FAILED TO WIN A SEAT. THE NEW OPPOSITION WILL BE LED BY THE LEFTIST UNITED LABOR FRONT. (UNCLASSIFIED) PORT OF SPAIN 2348, 9/14.)
ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MORNING SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE228056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: GAMBER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760347-1123
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760957/aaaabwmz.tel
Line Count: 212
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 FEB 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, MASS, SF, CT, SW, US, CI, IZ, TS, XF, PE, PN, TD
To: JCS DOD CIA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006